Amendment to the Claims:

1. (withdrawn). A fitting for releasably connecting a first tube end to a second tube end in a substantially coaxial, end-to-end orientation, wherein said second tube end has an outer diameter within a specified range, said fitting comprises:

a slightly resilient collar having a plurality of inwardly projecting prominences;

said first tube end having a sidewall and a plurality of holes therethrough;

said holes sized, shaped and located to allow passage of said prominences therethrough to contact an outer surface of said second tube end;

wherein said collar has a medial bulge in thickness yielding an axially variable resiliency.

2. (previously presented). A fitting for releasably connecting a first tube end to a second tube end in a substantially coaxial, end-to-end orientation, wherein said second tube end has an outer diameter within a specified range, said fitting comprises:

a slightly resilient collar having a plurality of inwardly projecting prominences;

said first tube end having a sidewall and a plurality of holes therethrough;

said holes sized, shaped and located to allow passage of prominences therethrough to contact an outer surface of said second tube end;

wherein said collar has an axially variable resilience; and,

wherein a first one of said prominences is shaped to have a tapered inner surface.

3. (previously presented). A fitting for releasably connecting a first tube end to a second tube end in a substantially coaxial, end-to-end orientation, wherein said second tube end has an outer diameter within a specified range, said fitting comprises:

a resilient clamping structure having a plurality of inwardly projecting prominences;

said first tube end having a sidewall and a plurality of holes therethrough;

said holes sized, shaped and located to allow passage of said prominences therethrough to contact an outer surface of said second tube end;

wherein a first one of said prominences is shaped to have a tapered inner surface; and

said tapered inner surface has an upper portion and an adjacent lower portion wherein said upper portion is more outwardly located than said lower portion.

4. (currently amended). The fitting of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 3, wherein said clamping structure further comprises a sleeve-shaped body.

5. (currently amended). The fitting of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 3, wherein said prominences are evenly spaced apart.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended). The fitting of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 3, wherein there are at least six prominences.

8. (currently amended). The fitting of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 3, wherein said clamping structure is axially symmetric.

9. (previously presented). The fitting of Claim 2, wherein said clamping structure is formed from an integrated collar made from a resilient material.

10. (currently amended). The fitting of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 3, wherein said prominences are biased radially inwardly.

11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended). An auto-adapting fitting for releasably connecting in a substantially coaxial, end-to-end orientation, a first tube end to a second tube end where said second tube end has an outer diameter within a specified range, said fitting comprises:

a tubular feed port having a first axial opening;

said port being shaped to have a plurality of apertures extending radially through said side wall proximate to said opening; ~~and~~

a slightly resilient annular retaining ring circumferentially mounted to said outer ~~wall~~ diameter, said ring having a plurality of friction prominences penetrating through said aperture into said port, wherein a first one of said prominences is shaped to have a tapered inner surface; and

wherein said ring has a medial bulge in thickness yielding an axially variable resiliency.

13. (previously presented). The fitting of Claim 2, wherein said prominences are evenly spaced apart.

14. (previously presented). The fitting of Claim 2, wherein there are at least six prominences.

15. (previously presented). The fitting of Claim 2, wherein said collar is axially symmetric.

16. (previously presented). The fitting of Claim 2, wherein said prominences are biased radially inwardly.

17. (previously presented). The fitting of Claim 12, wherein said prominences are evenly spaced apart.

18. (previously presented). The fitting of Claim 12, wherein there are at least six prominences.

19. (previously presented). The fitting of Claim 12, wherein said ring is axially symmetric.

20. (previously presented). The fitting of Claim 12, wherein said prominences are biased radially inwardly.